



USDA-NASS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

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Farms - ERS

Montana Grain Movement

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations during June 2004 through November 2004 was 55.8 million bushels, which was up 7% from the previous year.

Over 84% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 47 million bushels, up 14% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations during this period have totaled 4.6 million bushels, up 4% from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 4.3 million bushels, down from 6.8 million bushels a year ago.

Wheat shipped by rail, amounted to 53.4 million bushels, 96% of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 2.4 million bushels compared with 3.3 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 4% of the total, which was down 2 percentage points from the previous year.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June 2004 to November 2004 period was 7.2 million bushels, up 14% from the same period last year.

Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for western destinations were down 53% from the same period last year, at 1.3 million bushels. Shipments to eastern destinations rose from 3.3 million bushels last year to 5.2 million bushels this year. While shipments to other destinations went up from 0.3 million bushels last year to 0.7 million bushels this year.

2004 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 15.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2004, compared with 16.0

million pounds in 2003, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 18,600 cattle slaughtered during 2004, down 2 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 21.3 million pounds was down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 9 pounds to 1,150 pounds.

There were 14,600 hogs slaughtered in Montana, down 3 percent from 2003. Total live weight at 3.4 million pounds was down 3 percent from last year. The average live weight was 235 pounds per head compared with 234 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,700 head, unchanged from 2003. The average live weight at 122 pounds was 4 pounds lighter than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2004 decreased 1 percent from 2003 to 456,000 pounds.

The number of federally inspected slaughter plants in Montana on January 1, 2005 was 9, down 1 plant from 2004. There were 141 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2005, down 1 from the same date a year ago. (Continued on next page.)

Wheat and Barley Shipments out of Montana from June through November, 2003-2004 1/

	Barley		Durum Wheat		Hard White Wheat		Soft White Wheat		Spring Wheat		Winter Wheat		Total Wheat	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
		(000 Bushels)												
Shipments By Truck														
West	210	374	2	0	24	13	26	19	950	772	1,520	1,113	2,522	1,917
East	60	129	188	68	0	4	4	1	18	13	34	5	244	91
Other & Unknown	287	153	52	0	0	0	0	0	222	142	309	274	583	416
Total Shipments	557	656	242	68	24	17	30	20	1,190	927	1,863	1,392	3,349	2,424
Shipments By Rail														
West	2,496	906	172	139	19	41	0	0	25,658	26,975	12,774	17,876	38,623	45,031
East	3,203	5,056	3,769	4,058	3	0	0	0	426	473	17	0	4,215	4,531
Other & Unknown	58	579	1,738	1,113	0	24	0	0	2,773	1,779	1,711	929	6,222	3,845
Total Shipments	5,757	6,541	5,679	5,310	22	65	0	0	28,857	29,227	14,502	18,805	49,060	53,407
Total by Rail & Truck	6,314	7,197	5,921	5,378	46	82	30	20	30,047	30,154	16,365	20,197	52,409	55,831
1/ Data is reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers and is expanded to represent 100% of elevator capacity.														

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2004 Red Meat Production

(continued from front page)

Red meat production for the United States totaled 45.6 billion pounds in 2004, 2 percent below last year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.4 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 136 million pounds. Beef production, at 24.7 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Veal production totaled 176 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year, and set a new record low. Pork production, at 20.5 billion pounds, was 3 percent above last year, setting a new record high. Lamb and mutton production totaled 199 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2004 totaled 32.7 million head, down 8 percent from 2003, with federal inspection comprising 98.2 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,240 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 50.4 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.2 percent, dairy cows 7.3 percent, other cows 8.4 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 842,400 head, down 16 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 330 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 103 million head, up 3 percent from 2003 with 98.9 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 267 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.84 million head, was down 5 percent from 2003 with 94.3 percent federally inspected. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2003 to 136 pounds.

There were 825 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2005 compared with 855 last year. Of these, 689 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2004 with 13

slaughtering almost 52 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 664 plants, with 13 accounting for slightly over 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 13 of the 234 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 83 percent of the total and 4 of the 500 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2004 comprised about 60 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for almost 52 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2004, similar to 2003.

2004 Sweet Cherry Production

Montana sweet cherry producers harvested a total of 2,360 tons in 2004, 15 percent more than the 2003 production of 2,060 tons and slightly higher than the 2,350 tons produced in 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Utilization of the 2004 crop was 2,220 tons, 20 percent higher than the 1,850 tons utilized in 2003 and equal to the 2002 utilization. The value of production for 2004 was \$4.5 million compared with the 2003 value of \$3.2 million. The average price received for cherries during 2004 was \$2,020 per ton compared with \$1,710 in 2003.

Sweet cherry producers in the United States harvested 282,060 tons in 2004, up 15 percent from the 2003 total of 245,700 tons and 56 percent higher than the 2002 crop of 181,355 tons. Producers utilized 278,160 tons in 2004, 14 percent higher than the 243,580 tons utilized in 2003 and 57 percent more than the 2002 total of 177,305 tons utilized. Value of production for the 2004 crop totaled \$435.7 million, which is 27 percent higher than the 2003 total of \$342.1 million. The price per ton averaged \$1,570 in 2004 compared with \$1,410 in 2003.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 2005, up 3 percent from last month, but down 2

percent from February of 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, down 7 percent from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,143 pounds decreased 7 pounds from last year.

During February 1,100 hogs were slaughtered, down from 1,200 head a year ago. The average live weight of 240 pounds was down 1 pound from last year. February sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, down 100 head from February 2004. The average live weight dropped 7 pounds from last year to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.42 billion pounds in February, up 1 percent from the 3.40 billion pounds produced in February 2004.

Beef production, at 1.77 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.34 million head, down 4 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.1 million pounds, 16 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,900 head, down 13 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was 8 pounds below last year, at 328 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, 3 percent above February 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.2 million pounds, was up 3 percent from February 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 215,000 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 1 pound from February a year ago.

January to February 2005 commercial red meat production was 7.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 17 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

February Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 12.2 billion pounds, down 0.7 percent from February 2004. However, production was 2.8 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year. January revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 1.5 percent from January 2004. The January revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 29 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,516 pounds for February, 15 pounds below February 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.07 million head, 23,000 head more than February 2004, but 9,000 head less than January 2005.

U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2004 and 6 percent above March 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, 6 percent below 2004 and 8 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.45 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 277,000, 600-699 pounds were 308,000, 700-799 pounds were 526,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 412,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.63 million, 4 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 76,000 during February, 10 percent above 2004 and 7 percent above 2003.

March Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 3.2 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2005, up 14 percent from the previous year. Ninety percent of the 2004 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 168 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2005, up 1 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 42 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year.

Disappearance of 235 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 24.6 million cwt, is up 9 percent from last year and 10 percent above the same date in 2003.

Processors used 119 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. February usage, at 18.4 million cwt, is 2 percent below both last year and two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased 2 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processing decreased 1 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 23.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 15 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 118 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, up 4 percent from last year but 2 percent below two years ago. Montana's potato stocks are up 14 percent from last year, Idaho's storages hold 10 percent more, and Colorado's potato sheds stored 4 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 18 percent and Washington's sheds hold 2 percent less than last year. California's stocks are unchanged from a year ago.

February Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 6.91 billion during February 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 5.90 billion table eggs, and 1.01 billion hatching eggs, of which 956 million were broiler-type and 58 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2005 averaged 349 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,980 eggs, down 3 percent from February 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2005, totaled 349 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2005, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February totaled 32.9 million, up 3 percent from February 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.7 million on March 1, 2005, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 208,000 during February 2005, down 27 percent from February 2004.

The February 2005 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 731 million, was up slightly from February of the previous year. There were 659 million eggs in incubators on March 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.21 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2005, down 2 percent from February 2004.

Structure and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms - ERS

Most farms in the U.S. are family farms (97 percent in 2001). Even the largest farms tend to be family farms. For example, 86 percent of the farms with sales of \$1 million or more in 2001 were family farms.

Small family farms (sales less than \$250,000) accounted for 90 percent of the farms in the U.S. but produced a modest share (28 percent) of farm output in 2001. Large (sales of \$250,000 to \$499,999) and very large family farms (sales of \$500,000 or more) accounted for only 7 percent of farms but 58 percent of the value of production in 2001. Nonfamily farms accounted for another 3 percent of farms and 14 percent of the value of production.

Small farms made higher proportionate contributions to the production of specific commodities, including oats, tobacco, hay, wheat,

soybeans, corn and beef cattle. Small farms also held about 68 percent of all farm assets, including 60 percent of the land owned by farms. As custodians of the bulk of farm assets—including land—small farms have a large role in natural resource and environmental policy.

In 2001, three-fourths of commodity-related payments went to high-sales small farms (sales of \$100,000 to \$250,000), large family farms, and very large family farms. In contrast, over 50 percent of payments from the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve Programs went to retirement and residential/lifestyle farms.

In general, farm households are not a low-income group. Farm household income has been at or above the average for all U.S. households in recent years but varies substantially across households. Household income averaged \$64,500 for farm operators in 2001, 11 percent higher than the

average for all U.S. households. Even though farm household income averages more than all U.S. households, farm households received most of their income (91 percent) from off-farm sources.

Operators of residential/lifestyle farms, large family farms, and very large family farms had average incomes well above the average for all U.S. households. Operators in the limited-resource, retirement, and low-sales groups had average incomes that were below the national average.

The report relies extensively on data from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) conducted by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The full report, "Structural and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms: 2004 Family Farm Report," can be found can be found under the Economic Research Service website at www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AIB797/.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

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